

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01

OMB-01 NEAE-00 /151 W

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P R 111204Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 821

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 049

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1140

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY: BOTH SYRIAN DAILIES FRONTPAGE, BELOW FOLD, STORIES ON BEGINNING PRESIDENT'S TRIP, LISTING FULL ITINERARY INCLUDING ISRAEL. STORIES, BASED ON AGENCY REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, QUOTE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE STATEMENTS THAT TRIP WILL BE LONG AND HARD BUT THAT HE HOPES CONTINUE STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN TOWARD MIDEAST PEACE. RADIO DAMASCUS ALSO REPORTS PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY HAS BEGUN. PAPERS HAVE CARRIED SEVERAL EDITORIALS, AN UNUSUAL EVENT, SINCE DISENGAGEMENT. INITIAL EDITORIALS WERE MOSTLY CONFINED TO PRAISE OF PRESIDENT ASAD FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, TODAY'S AL-BAATH TAKES LARGE STEP FURTHER WITH LENGTHY COMMENTARY ON THEME "NO FRIENDSHIPS, ONLY INTERESTS" AND POINTED REFERENCES TO ACCEPTANCE U.S. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE BY SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. END SUMMARY.

2. AL-BAATH COMMENTED: "IN THIS CENTURY THERE IS NO ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP. INTERESTS OF PEOPLE DETERMINE FRIENDSHIP. THERE ALSO IS NO ETERNAL ENMITY BECAUSE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE DETERMINE ENMITIES ... INTERESTS OF PEOPLE OF SOVIET UNION DICTATED POLICY OF AGREEMENT WITH USMS., AND ALSO IMPORTING OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN U.S. JAPANESE CAPITAL TO BE INVESTED IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SOVIET UNION. INTERESTS OF CHINESE PEOPLE DICTATED CONCLUSION OF CONTRACTS ON NUMBER OF PROJECTS WITH U.S. AND IMPORTING OF ITS ASSISTANCE AND EXPERIENCE TO BE PUT TO SERVICE OF CHINESE PEOPLE. OUR PARTY, AFTER SERIES OF ACHIEVEMENTS, HAS ACQUIRED, THROUGH CONFIDENCE OF OUR PEOPLE IN PRESIDENT ASAD, ALL THE CREDIT AND ALL THE WEAPONS WHICH WILL BE DECISIVE IN ALL THE COMING BATTLES FOR THE LIBERATION OF TERRITORY AND ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR AIMS."

3. COMMENT: WITH LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDERWAY TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT NIXON AND DAMASCENES WIDELY AWARE OF VISIT THROUGH EARLIER COVERAGE VIA FOREIGN RADIOS, THIS BEGINNING OF SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE OF VISIT BY DOMESTIC MEDIA WILL NOT APPRECIABLY RAISE LEVEL OF INFORMATION BUT IS BOUND TO INCREASE AIR OF POSITIVE ANTICIPATION NOW BEGINNING PERVADE CITY.
SCOTES

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